

CLAIMS

- Sub 1*
1. An apparatus for facilitating the connection of tubulars using a top drive, the apparatus comprising a stator (11) attachable to said top drive, and a supporting member (24) for supporting a tool (4) wherein means (1) are provided to allow substantially horizontal movement of said supporting member (24).
- a*
2. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein said means (1) also allows substantially vertical movement of said supporting member (24).
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- a*
3. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein said means (1) comprises a rigid member (19) arranged between said stator (11) and said supporting member (24) and arranged on at least one axle (18, 18').
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4. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 3, wherein said means (1) comprises at least one arm (22, 22') arranged between said rigid member (19) and said support member (24) and connected thereto by spherical bearings (25, 25').
- a*
- claim 1*
5. An apparatus as claimed in any of ~~Claims 2 to 4~~, wherein said means (1) comprises pistons and cylinders (28, 29) arranged between said stator (11) and said supporting member (24) to allow vertical movement of said supporting member (24).
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- a*
- claim 3*
6. An apparatus as claimed in any of ~~Claims 2 to 5~~, further comprising a slider (20) to facilitate vertical movement of said supporting member (24).

a 7. An apparatus as claimed in ^{claim 1} ~~any preceding claim~~, wherein a mud pipe (32) is arranged between said stator (11) and said supporting member (24).

5 8. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 7, wherein said mud pipe (32) is movable in relation to said stator (11) and said supporting member (24) about ball joints (35, 36, 37, 39).

a 9. An apparatus as claimed in ^{claim 1} ~~any preceding claim~~, wherein said supporting member (24) is a hydraulic motor.

a 10. An apparatus as claimed in ^{claim 1} ~~any preceding claim~~ including said tool (4).

11. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 10, wherein said supporting member (24) is integral with said tool (4).

a 12. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 10 ~~or 11~~, wherein said tool (4) is for gripping a tubular (40).

a 20 13. An apparatus as claimed in ^{claim 1} ~~any preceding claim~~ including a top drive (3).

24/428 14. A method for facilitating the connection of tubulars using a top drive, the method comprising the steps of attaching a tool to the top drive using a supporting

member and adjusting the supporting member to cause the tool to be displaced horizontally relative to the top drive.